



AmeriCorps ***IN ACTION***

January 2007

Special points of interest:

- January 15 Martin Luther King, Jr. National Day of Service.
- January 25 National Thank Your Mentor Day

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Martin Luther King National Day of Service

The Martin Luther King, Jr. National Holiday is more than just a holiday. In 1994, Congress passed the King Holiday and Service Act, and designated Martin Luther King Jr. Day as a national community day of service.

Dr. King sought to forge the common ground on which people from all walks of life could join together to address important community issues. Working alongside individuals of all ages, races and backgrounds, Dr. King encouraged Americans to come together to strengthen communities, alleviate poverty, and acknowledge dignity and respect for all human beings. Service, he realized, was the great equalizer.

On January 15, 2007, as we celebrate the 21st anniversary of the Martin Luther King Jr. federal holiday, Americans across the country will celebrate by honoring the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Hundreds of thousands of Americans will remember and memorialize Dr. King by participating in service projects in their communities. Together, they will honor King's legacy of tolerance, peace, and equality by meeting community needs and making the holiday...

"A day ON, not a day OFF."

Help make January 15 a day ON in Indiana. Visit www.ofbci.in.gov to find a service project near you! For more information contact Sarah Bonilla at 317-234-4287 or sbonilla@ofbci.in.gov.



Congressional volunteers help build affordable housing near Washington, DC during the 2006 King Day of Service.

January is National Mentoring Month

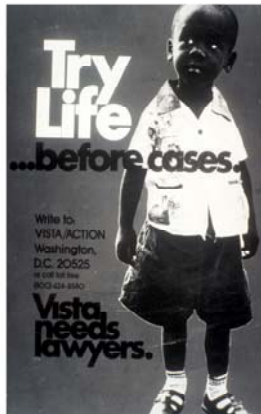
The Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives is proud to be the Lead Partner for National Mentoring Month in Indiana.

National Mentoring Month is an effort spearheaded by the Harvard Mentoring Project of the Harvard School of Public Health, MENTOR/National Mentoring Partnership, and the Corporation for National and Community Service. To honor a teacher, coach or family member

who made a difference in your life, visit WhoMentoredYou.org.



www.mentoring.org



VISTA recruiting poster from late 1960's.



**March 12-13, 2007
Indianapolis**

**"Everyone is
great, because
everyone can
serve."**

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Tax Questions?

January always brings many questions about taxes, both for individuals and organizations. Both the Federal government and the State of Indiana are ready to assist you in getting free and accurate information.

The Internal Revenue Service website, www.irs.gov is loaded with information and resources to help answer your federal tax questions. Just click on the appropriate button for individuals, businesses or charities and nonprofits.

The Indiana Department of Revenue website, www.dor.in.gov has everything you need to know about Indiana state taxes.

Tax forms and instructions may be downloaded free from both the federal and state websites.

Many AmeriCorps members may qualify for free assistance in filing their tax returns. To learn more about the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, call 1-800-829-1040.

2007 Governor's Conference on Service and Volunteerism

This year's conference will bring together hundreds of people from all over the state who work to make Indiana a better place to live: National Service members and staff, faith-based and community organizations, government agencies and more!

The conference schedule features over 50 unique breakout sessions, two conference service projects, the Governor's Awards for Volunteer Service, and two excellent keynote speakers. Terri Hasdorff, Director of the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives for the US Agency for International Development is our opening speaker, and David Eisner, CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service, will deliver the keynote address for Tuesday morning's program.

This is an excellent opportunity for networking, professional development, and encouragement. To register, visit www.in.gov/ofbci/conference and click "Register Now".

Free Technical Assistance Resource

Delivered twice a month, **OTG e-TA** (*On-The-Go electronic Technical Assistance*) is your "drive through" window for receiving easily absorbed capacity building information.

This electronic newsletter, published by Campaign Consultation, contains valuable information pertinent to resource and fund development. Recent topics discussed include Baby Boomers and wealth transfer; how to properly thank your donors; writing a proposal to a foundation; and others!

To sign up to receive this newsletter, visit <http://onthegoeta.net/mail/>

OTG e-TA is sponsored by The Corporation for National and Community Service

Program of the Month: Harmony Corps

The goal of the Harmony-Corps Program is to increase student, family and community engagement in urban Indianapolis high schools. Our primary focus is to help high school students to be leaders and engage in issues that matter to them, whether in school or the community. Having talented and motivated AmeriCorps members on board has increased our capacity to effect positive change in the Indianapolis community.

The Harmony-Corps Program is sponsored by the Harmony Education Center (HEC) of Bloomington, IN. The HEC has worked with Indianapolis Public Schools and community organizations for the last five years to improve the success rate of IPS high school students. One of the innovative results of this collaboration was the 2005 transformation of 5 large high schools into smaller, specialized high schools with no more than 400 students.

The Harmony-Corps program launched in September of 2006 and has twelve AmeriCorps members serving 25 of the new IPS small high schools.

Harmony-Corps members provide direct service and build capacity in the areas of student voice and leadership, and family/community engagement in school. Each school evaluated their own needs and designed a service plan for their Harmony-Corps member to follow. By supporting the self-determined needs of each school, our efforts will produce sustainable results and become part of each new school's culture.



Romona Smith
AmeriCorps
Member of the Month

***As an
AmeriCorps
member, I am
fulfilled in what
I am doing, and
the thanks that I
get from others
motivates me
every day.***

Romona Smith



Everyone can volunteer.

Member of the Month: Romona Smith

Romona Smith began service as an AmeriCorps member in September of 2006 with the Harmony Education Center's Harmony-Corps Program. Romona serves FAME (Finance, Accounting, Marketing and Entrepreneurship) and STEAM (The Academy of Science and Technology), two of the new specialized small high schools on the Northwest High School Campus at 34th and Moller Road in Indianapolis.

Romona assists the new FAME and STEAM student leadership organizations, and helps students develop the skills to make a difference in their schools and community. Like many of the newly formed small high schools in the district, her assigned schools did not have student governance bodies in place before her arrival. Romona encourages high school students to work with each other and their teachers to create a healthy and positive culture in their schools.

A native of Gary, Indiana, Romona graduated from Indiana University-Bloomington with a B.S. in Merchandising. She spent a number of years in the business world, but decided that she wanted her passion for helping others to be a part of her career. Growing up in Gary she saw the lack of resources in her community and schools, and has always desired to give back. Through her service as an AmeriCorps member, she knows that she is making a difference and helping "students' dreams come true in schools". She sees her experiences as an AmeriCorps member shaping her future career path and her life.

For more information about the Harmony Education Center visit www.harmonyschool.org

For more information about Northwest High School and the Small Schools program visit www.northwesthighschool.net or www.ips.k12.in.us



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www.ofbci.in.gov

Important Dates in January, 2007

- January 6: Final Day to submit accepted VISTA candidates to State Office for approval.
- January 10: Periodic Expense Report due for period ending 12/31/2006.
- January 10: Financial Status Report for October, November, and December 2006.
- January 12: AmeriCorps Program Director's Training, 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM.
- January 15: Martin Luther King Jr., National Day of Service. OFBCI office will be closed.
- January 18: New Program Conference Call, 9:30 to 10:30 AM.
- January 25: National Thank Your Mentor Day



Governor's Awards for Volunteer Service

He shows up on time, every time. She has volunteered faithfully for twenty years, never letting weather or other obstacles keep her from her mission. She led the strategic planning committee which revitalized your agency. He makes sure your building's 40 year old furnace continues to warm the kid's classrooms.

Who are these people? These are the unsung heroes, the faithful volunteers that make the difference between success and failure for a nonprofit organization.

Do you know one of these people? Do you serve with them? Have they served your organization? Then please consider nominating them for the 2007 Governor's Award for Volunteer Service. These awards recognize outstanding Hoosiers who have volunteered their time and skills to make a difference their community and our state. The 2007 Selection Committee is led by First Lady Cheri Daniels. Awards will be presented at the 2007 Governor's Conference on Service and Volunteerism, March 12-13, 2007.

Nominations are being accepted in six categories: Youth (volunteers under 18 years of age), Faith-Based, National Service members, Service Learning, Volunteering and Lifetime Achievement..

To obtain a nomination form, visit www.ofbci.in.gov or call 317-233-4273.

Nominations must be received at the OFBCI office by February 6, 2007.